Approximat expenditure in rehabilitation of N.E. Ultras

247. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per head approximate expenditure in rehabilitating ultras in the N.E.;

(b) whether Assam and other States of the N.E. have approached the Union Govenment to provide the entire amount; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Central Government is considering a propsal to rehabilitate ultras in N.E. Since the proposal has not so far been finalised, the question of expenditure on rehabilitation of ultras does not arise.

Setting up of Tidal Station in Kerala

248. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tidal station for generation of energy from tidal waves, set up in Kerala a few years ago, had sunk in the sea;

(b) whether Government are endeavouring to explore power genreation from tidal currents; if so, the generation of energy from tidal waves being problematic;

(c) if so, teh progress made in this direction so far; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No tidal station has so far been built in Kerala, or in any other part of the country.

(b) and (c) In order to explore the possibility of generating power from tidal energy, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources carried out a feasibility study for construction of a mini-tidal power plant in Durgaduani creek in Sunderbans, West Bengal. Based on the requisite field studies and computer modeling exercises, a detailed project report is being prepared through the State Govt. Nodal Agency for Renewable Sources of Energy in West Bengal, with the support of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The experience in the Durgaduani Tidal Power Project would help in further development of tidal power genration in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Solar Energy for Gujarat Villages

249. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of all the villages in Gujarat is not possible due to certain reasons;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating a scheme to identify such villages in the State and provide them solar energy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Out of the 18,028 inhabited villages in Gujarat, the Gujarat Electricity Board has already electrified 17,940 villages. The electrfication of the balance 88 villages has not been considered feasible by the State Government due to various reasons such as no population, submergence and location in deep sea. Out of the villages already electrified, 207 have been electrified through provision of solar street lighting systems.

In addition, under the solar photogoltaic programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) have distributed, 7,712 solar lanterns and installed 370 home lighting systems, 346 street lighting systems and 3 village level power plants of 15 kWp aggregate capacity in the State up to 30th June, 1998. A further 200 solar home lighting systems and 5,000 solar lanterns have been allocated to Gujarat by the Ministry during 1998-99.

Hike in Charges of Farakka and Kahalgaon plants of NTPC

250. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fixed charges of Farakka and Kahalgaon plants of National Thermal Power Corporation have been hiked recently with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1995;

(b) if so, the financial implications of the same on respective SEBs and consumers;

(c) whether a rate of return on equity of these plants has also been raised from 12% to 16%;

(d) if so, the financial implications of the same;

(e) whether the above have the approval of Central electricity Regulatory Commission; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon expirty of validity of tariff for sale of power from Farakka STPS Stage-I (600 MW) on 31.12.1994 and declaration of commercial operation of unit V (500 MW) at Farakka STPS with effect from 1.4.1995 the refixation of tariff for Farakka STPS stage-I (600 MW) with effect from 1.1.1995 and Farakka STPS (1100 MW) with effect from 1.4.1995 notified by the Ministry of Power vide notification dated 5.11.1998 has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges of the project. Similarly for Kahalgaon STPS refixation of tariff notified vide Ministry of Power notification dated 10.10.1997, 1.1.1998 and 9.12.1998 respectively with effect from 1.4.1995, 1.2.1996 and 1.8.1996, being the dates of declaration of commercial operation of unit 2, 3, and 4 has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges for the plant.

(b) In line with the provisions of tariff notifications for various power stations, the billing of fixed charges from the date of commercial operation of the respective generating units was done on provisional basis by pro-rata increase of the already notified fixed charges in proportion to increase in the installed capacity. Subsequently, the likely revision in fixed charges was worked out by Central Electricity Authority and communicated to the State Electricity Board in Eastern Region on 7.8.1996.

The fixed charges of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) based on notification issued on 5.11.1998 work out to Rs. 426.98 crores per year. The variable charges as notified are 32.17 P/KWH with effect from 1.4.1995 and are subject to monthly Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The fixed charges of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) based on notification issued on 9.12.1998 are Rs. 441.48 crores per year. The variable charge as notificed are 50.86 P/KWH with effect from 1.8.1996 and are subject to Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual Price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The above fixed and variable charges are billed to State Electricity Board on a Monthly basis as per Regional Energy Accounts issued by Eastern Regional Electricity Board each Month.